

access to credit; and making smart investments in education, in innovation, and in infrastructure. These are bipartisan, commonsense solutions.

Mr. Speaker, we simply can't wait any longer. The message from my constituents is clear: Put aside our partisan differences. Take action now for the American people.

STENNIS SPACE CENTER

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that the path to space goes through Hancock County, Mississippi. That statement has been true for five decades due to the unequalled excellence and dedication of the men and women of the John C. Stennis Space Center, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of its founding this week.

The work done at Stennis is varied, but it is known worldwide as the home of rocket engine testing. Before we have sent men and women into space, the engines they ascended on were tested on the ground at Stennis. Every mission to the Moon and every flight of the space shuttle roared with Stennis-tested engines. The Space Center is the beacon of innovation for private industry, educational institutions, and students of all ages.

I am honored to serve as chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee. In my role, I hope to see all my colleagues visit the Stennis Space Center, especially to see an engine test. You will be awed by the technological ingenuity and complexity of the operation and of the passion and skill of the workforce.

It is so easy to herald the past achievements of NASA and the Stennis Space Center, but it is the future that should drive us toward even greater ones, for the path back to the Moon, to Mars and beyond goes through Hancock County, Mississippi.

□ 1220

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support one of our Nation's crowning achievements, the Social Security program, and the 55 million Americans who benefit from this critical program. Since 1935, Social Security has kept its promise to America's seniors that after a lifetime of working and playing by the rules, you should not have to live in poverty when you retire.

I was happy to see last week that after 2 years, our Nation's seniors will receive a well-deserved cost-of-living-adjustment increase of 3.6 percent. The American people should be concerned, however, that the recently announced

COLA increase would effectively disappear if this Congress decides to adopt a chained CPI formula for Social Security. The chained Consumer Price Index would lower benefits by \$112 billion for current and future beneficiaries over the next 10 years.

I support efforts to reduce our Federal deficit, but we should not balance the Nation's budget on the backs of seniors, the disabled, and children. I call on our colleagues to stand with America's seniors and support Social Security. It's not a Ponzi scheme, as some candidates for President allege; and let's celebrate the 3.6 percent for our seniors.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend President Obama for announcing a plan this morning to lower student loan payments. The New York Times recently reported that student loan debt outpaced credit card debt for the first time last year and that the growth in student loan debt threatens to undermine the future life prospects of the current generation of students.

It was this realization that led me, as a State senator, to pass the Tennessee Education Lottery program that gives scholarships to our Tennessee students.

Too many young people have an unbelievable amount of debt that burdens them for the rest of their lives. The students that participate in Occupy Wall Street are very aware of this threat.

Earlier this year, I reintroduced H.R. 2028, the Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act, which will restore fair treatment to Americans in severe financial distress whose debts include private student loans.

Before 2005 private student loans issued by for-profit lenders were appropriately treated in bankruptcy like credit card debt and other similar types of unsecured consumer liabilities. The bill I've introduced with Senator DURBIN in the Senate would ensure that privately issued student loans will once again be treated like other debt and be dischargeable in bankruptcy.

We need to give our students a fair chance.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As you know, violence against women in the United States is as insidious as it is destructive. And according to a study by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of

Justice Statistics, there are as many as 3 million cases of domestic violence across the United States every year.

Due to the nature of the crime, the mental and physical cost of domestic violence are difficult to quantify, but they are far too obvious to ignore. Women suffering from domestic abuse average more emergency room visits, a significantly higher rate of unemployment, are more likely to lose the jobs they have, and are also more likely to rely on welfare.

Various studies find the monetary costs to the Federal Government of only the reported cases of domestic violence to be estimated in billions of dollars.

Regrettably, hard economic times make even more crimes of this sort likely to occur, which is why the Congress must ensure not only to address this growing epidemic but to protect the necessary funds to protect the women of this country from domestic abuse.

LOUISVILLE'S FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louisville's Fairness Campaign—Kentucky's oldest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization. This month the Fairness Campaign is celebrating 20 years of fighting against discrimination, inspiring hope, and protecting our citizens.

Thanks to Fairness, in 1999 Louisville became one of the first cities to prohibit housing and employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Now Fairness is working tirelessly to secure these protections for all Kentuckians. Because of Fairness, more Kentuckians are seeing that the lines once drawn between us because of sexual orientation and gender identity are only imaginary, and they're realizing that hate has no place in our Commonwealth.

That's a message that needs to be heard not just from Pikeville to Paducah, but from coast to coast. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fairness Campaign on two decades of service. It's truly thrilling how much progress they have made.

I would also like to individually honor the 10 brave Louisvillians who co-founded the Fairness Campaign in 1991 to seek equal protections for all citizens under the law: Jim Adams, Eric Graninger, Lisa Gunterman, Ken Herndon, Jane Hope, Pam McMichael, Susan Remmers, Jeff Rodgers, Thom Snyder, and Carla Wallace.

THE SUPERCOMMITTEE

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)